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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6476

IN RESPONSE
REFER TO: 88-3323

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September 19, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

As you are aware, the Soviet Union and the United States are engaged in negotiations to establish new verification protocols to the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET). The administration hopes to complete these negotiations by the end of its term and to ask the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaties.

While the intelligence community has produced several studies over the years on the monitoring of nuclear explosions, the Committee understands that there exists no formal intelligence community document, approved by the National Foreign Intelligence Board (NFIB), that describes U.S. monitoring capabilities and presents the coordinated monitoring judgments of the various intelligence agencies. Our experience in the Senate's review of the INF Treaty amply demonstrated how important such a document can be in promoting understanding of those monitoring capabilities and their relationship to treaty and protocol provisions.

We therefore request that such a document, approved by the NFIB and based on all-source information, including cooperative measures agreed to in the new TTBT and PNET protocols, be undertaken and submitted to this Committee upon completion of

the new protocols or shortly thereafter. Such a document will make a significant contribution to informed discussion prior to a Senate decision on ratification of the Treaties.

As always, we remain

Sincerely,



David L. Boren
Chairman



William S. Cohen
Vice Chairman

cc: The Honorable Frank Carlucci
The Honorable John S. Herrington